Schemes to involve rural educated youth in aquaculture by MPEDA

7608. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the schemes and programmes being taken by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) to involve more rural educated youth in aquaculture; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Rural educated youth can take advantage of MPEDA's schemes for the promotion of aquaculture. These include:—

(i) Training programmes for members of SC/ST communities on coastal aquaculture;

(ii) Seminar/Symposium/Training programme on shrimp farming;

(iii) Demonstration of farm management technology;

(iv) Subsidy assistance schemes for development of new farms, establish-ment of hatcheries and brood stock bank/nauplii rearing centres.

Expansion of floriculture exports

7609. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time bound programme) has been set for expanding floriculture exports;

(b) what are the targets involved;

(c) whether any cooperation has b*een* sought with State Governments like Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Some measures taken for enhancing exports of floriculture products include:—

(i) Providing financial assistance for development of infrastructure such as refrigerated/insulated vans and setting up of pre-cooling/cold storage units;

(ii) Establishing five walk-in-type cold storages for export consignments awaiting clearance;

(iii) Streamlining and simplification, of plant quarantine procedures for expeditious clearance of cargo;

(iv) Concessional customs duty on specified goods required for Green Houses;

(v) Making available the benefits of duty free imports under the Export Oriented Units/Export Processing Zones Schemes to units engaged in floriculture and permitting sale of 50 per cent of their production in the) Domestic Tariff Area;

(vi) Implementation of a UNDP assisted Project on Floriculture for enhancing production and exports of cut flowers. Some of the activities to be undertaken in this project include advising entrepreneurs on production of flowers, preparation of crop manuals, undertaking market surveys and providing market information; and

(vii) Participation in international fairs/exhibitions. '

(b) No export targets have been fixed for floriculture products.

(c) and (d) Cooperation of State Governments is necessary for the effective implementation of the Central Sector Scheme on development of floriculture which inter-alia envisages activities such as the setting up of tissue culture units and post harvest handling facilities in the private sector, in addition to the area expansion scheme for which funds have) been placed at the disposal *ot* targetted State Governments, including that of Andhra Pradesh.